

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Packer (US 6,058,453) in view of Tran (US 6,198,705). Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner previously accepted the drawings as originally filed with this application.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 8-10 and 17-19 and amended claims 1 and 11 of this application. Claim 19 is commensurate in scope with claim 10. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 1 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 8, 9, and 10, thus redrafting claim 10 in independent form. Original claims 2-5 and previously presented claim 6 all depend from amended claim 1.

Since claim 19 is commensurate in scope with claim 10, Applicant respectfully submits that 19 should also be allowable. Applicant's amended claim 11 comprises a combination of original claims 11, 17, 18, and 19, thus redrafting claim 19 in independent form. Original claims 13-16 and 20 all depend from amended claim 1.

In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claim 10, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 4, 2008

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